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countries would strike. The Spaniards, he said, did not dream such men as Captain Clark and Engineer Milligan of the Oregon lived. He said that in the hurry of business congress had forgotten a duty it owed to these two men. Mr. Butler elicited democratic applause when he said he hoped there would be found some honorable way to get rid of the Philippines. He advised this government to keep watch of Japan. He said that while we were "now friendly and loving each other and agreeing," the war with Russia would be over some day and then it would be discovered that the fighting men of the earth live in the island of Japan, five days from the Philippines and thirty-five days from the United States.

Representative Bartholdt of Missouri has introduced a concurrent resolution providing for a joint commission of five senators and five representatives to prepare plans for the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, Feb. 12, 1909.

The house committee on military affairs authorized a favorable report on a joint resolution providing that union and confederate battle flags in the custody of the war department shall be returned to the proper authorities in the states in which the regiments which bore the colors were organized.

The navy department has decided to forego the usual winter maneuvers of the combined fleets in the Caribbean this year in order to allow the ships' companies to perfect themselves in the use of the signal code.

Colonel William S. Patton, Major Carl Devol and George P. Whitte, all of the quartermaster's department, have been ordered to meet at San Francisco to investigate and report upon an alleged shortage of funds, for which Captain Lafitte is accountable.

The house committee on claims authorized a favorable report on a bill to pay William Radcliffe, a British subject, \$25,000 in settlement for his fish hatchery in Delta county, Colorado, which was destroyed by a mob.

The New York Ship Building company has notified the navy department that the armored cruiser Washington will be launched at the yard of that company in Camden, N. J., March 18.

An Associated Press dispatch, dated Feb. 16, says: "Representative Townsend of Michigan, one of the authors of the Esch-Townsend freight rate bill, had a talk with the president today regarding the prospects for the enactment of the measure into law. Mr. Townsend, who has canvassed the situation pretty thoroughly, expressed the opinion that there was a chance for the passage of the bill by the senate at the present session. After his talk with the president Mr. Townsend said that in the event no legislation on the rate question was enacted at this session, an extraordinary session of congress would be called by President Roosevelt for next autumn, perhaps in October."

The senate has received a formal invitation to attend the Lewis and Clark exposition to be held in Portland, on June 1.

Following the senate's action in amending the arbitration treaties, Secretary of State Hay made the following statement: "The president regards the matter of the general arbitration treaties as concluded by the action of the senate on Saturday. He recognizes the right of the senate to reject a treaty either by a direct vote in that sense, or indirectly by changes which

are incompatible with its spirit and purpose. He considers that with the senate amendment the treaties not only cease to be a step forward in the cause of general arbitration, but are really a step backward, and therefore he is unable to present them in this altered form to the countries with which we have been in negotiation." Senator Cullom, chairman of the committee on foreign relations, after reading Secretary Hay's statement, said: "The senate's position is right, undoubtedly. If anything is done hereafter the president will have to take the senate into his confidence. It might require a little more time, but otherwise I can see nothing in the senate's course inharmonious with the president's interpretation of his treaty making power."

February 16, President Roosevelt sent a special message to the senate, transmitting the protocol of an agreement providing for the collection and disbursement by the United States of the customs revenues of Santo Domingo. Few documents that have come to the senate in relation to any of the South or Central American or West India republics have attracted so much attention. Because of the controversy that has arisen as to the right of the executive to enter into treaty arrangements with any foreign government without advice and consent of the senate, extraordinary interest has been aroused. The document came to the senate at an hour past the usual time for most senators to leave the chamber and therefore it was brought soon after the senate convened the next day.

President Roosevelt has expressed the hope that congress will provide in the naval appropriation bill for three battleships instead of two.

The following amendment to the Panama canal bill was offered by Senator Morgan: "If the president, in the exercise of powers conferred upon him by law, shall remove all or any members of the Panama canal commission, or if any such offices shall become vacant for any cause, no appointments shall be made to fill such vacancies during the recess of congress."

The senate has passed the bill which carries an appropriation of \$9,940,000 for the District of Columbia and also the consular appropriation bill carrying \$2,156,000.

An Associated Press dispatch, dated Washington, D. C., Feb. 17, says: "In order to facilitate action at this session on the statehood bill the house today passed a resolution sending that measure as amended by the senate, directly into conference without offering an opportunity for debate. With the exception of Mr. McLachlan (Cal.), who voted with the democrats, party lines were strictly drawn."

A Good Story

Senator Blackburn relates a story of a lawyer in Kentucky who was generally very fortunate in winning his suits in the lower courts of that state and equally unfortunate in losing them by reason of reversals by the supreme court of the commonwealth. One day the senator chanced to find the lawyer in a train pulling out of Louisville, and on the attorney's knee was spread a huge law volume, which he appeared to be devouring with much interest. "Well, my friend," said Mr. Blackburn, "don't you get time enough in your office to read law, without fetching law books on a journey?" The lawyer sniffed contemptuously. "This isn't a law that I'm reading," said he. "It's a volume, sah, relating to the decisions of the supreme court of the state of Kentucky."—Kansas City Star.

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